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RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/26/2019
TAGS: [ETRD](#) [ETTC](#) [KOMC](#) [MCAP](#) [PARM](#) [MY](#) [IR](#) [SW](#)
SUBJECT: NEW IRANIAN ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE USED BELL
HELICOPTER IN SWEDEN

REF: A. 08 STOCKHOLM 423
[1](#)B. 08 STOCKHOLM 609
[1](#)C. 08 STOCKHOLM 744
[1](#)D. 08 STOCKHOLM 772

Classified By: CDA Robert Silverman for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (S) On February 25, Helicopter inspector and aviation consultant Arnold Sundquist (protect source) told us that two Iranians called from Germany to inquire about purchasing a used Bell 212 helicopter that Sundquist has advertised for sale. The two men flew to Karlsborg, Sweden to meet with Sundquist and to inspect the helo in question. The two men identified themselves to Sundquist as Akbar Kabiri, allegedly the son of a high-ranking mullah in Iran, and John Schneider-Merck, possibly a dual Iranian-German national traveling on a German passport. Schneider-Merck is a marketing consultant with GEBR. H&J Schneider-Merck GMBH, which has offices in Hamburg, Dubai, Baghdad and Tehran.

[1](#)2. (S) The two men were eager to put a down payment on the helo even after Sundquist had explained that the helo would need about 9-12 months of work before it could be moved from Sweden. When Sundquist asked the men how they planned to get the helo to Iran, Schneider-Merck stated that they intended to ship the helo to Malaysia and register it there for first and then re-export it to Iran. According to Sundquist, Schneider-Merck then explained that he uses a Malaysian company named "Pan Ha" to ship parts for helos and fixed-wing aircraft to Iran on a regular basis.

3 (S) Sundquist has provided valuable information to post about previous attempts by Iranians to acquire Bell helicopters in Sweden (reftels).
SILVERMAN